"Dedicated To The Artist In All Of Us"

JAMAICA PLAIN ARTS NEWS

VOLUME 1 NO. 12 FEBRUARY 20 1985 P.O. BOX 3 J.P. MA. 02130 FREE

ARTS COUNCIL NEWS

ARTS COUNCIL GENERAL MEETING: February 26, 7:30

A new feature of the meeting will be an "arts sharing" where a local artist or musician will display their work or play their music and be available to share with others about their work. The Arts Council would like to hear from members of the community who would like to be considered for this spot in the future. The main focus of the meetings will be an update of the progress so far, outlining the current goals and objectives of the Council and developing a specific plan to meet those goals, assignment of tasks and implementation. Please come, and please come ready to get down to work on the tasks at hand!

WINTER WORKSHOPS FOR CHILDREN

Don't miss the opportunity to enroll your children in the special Saturday workshops for elementary age children. Beginning March 2, these eight classes will involve the visual and performing arts in unique and creative ways:

- .musical instrument making
- .giant puppet making
- .African dance
- .Spanish dance
- .mask making
- .costume making
- .poetry
- .Native American music

A special program in music and movement for children ages 3-6 will take place as well.

A typical day would look like this:
1:30-2 Coming together, singing and dancing
2-3 Workshop
3-3:15 Cleanup and sharing
3:15-4:00 Music and movement, especially for ages 3-6, though older children would be welcome to participate.

The classes will be held at the Unitarian Church (at the monument). The cost for the entire series is $20 for Arts Council Members and $40 for non-members. Special rates for children participating in music and movement only or single sessions. Some scholarships are available. Register by mail: Box 533, J.P., MA 02130 or call Thomas 524-2069 or Femke 522-2809.

People interested in teaching, sewing or helping in any way, please call one of the above numbers.

This program is sponsored in part by a grant from the Massachusetts Arts Lottery.

LOCAL GRANT RECIPIENT

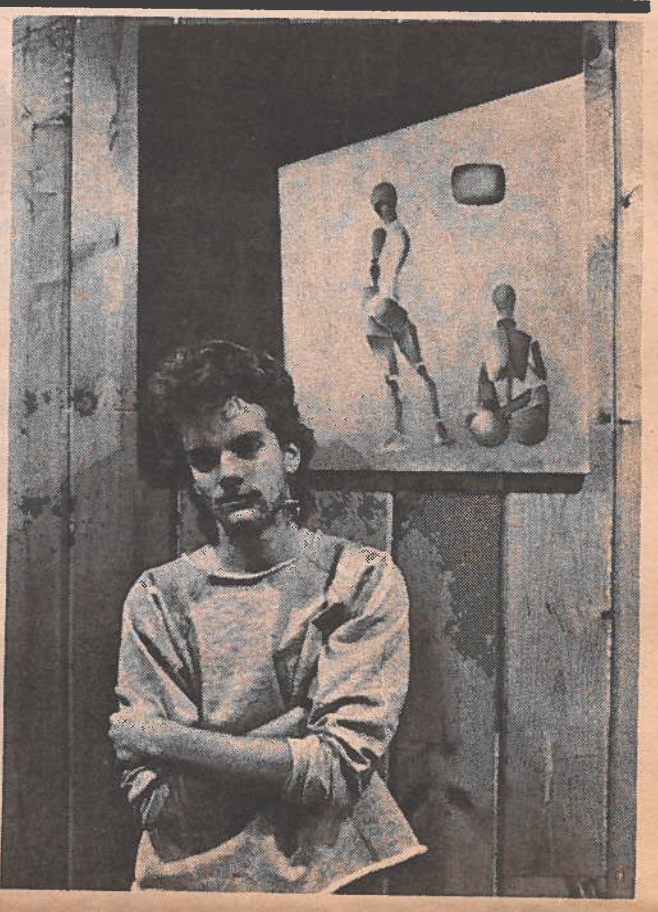
JAMAICA PLAIN RESIDENT WINS WBZ FUND FOR THE ARTS GRANT

David Zucker, the writer and director of a children's play entitled "Frightfully Fearful Yet Dangerously Curious" has recieved a small grant to help defray production costs. The play, about overcoming fear at being laughed at for failing to do something right, will be produced by Young Audiences of Massachusetts for whom Mr. Zucker is an artistic director. The play was originally produced at Curry College in Milton when Mr. Zucker was teaching drama there. It was subsequently produced at Cambridge High School. From here it was entered in the Massachusetts State Drama Festival, where it was a finalist. With Young Audiences it will be touring elementary schools throughout Massachusetts.

David Zucker is also the creator of "Cannibus Rex" a play about the effect of marijuana that was produced locally by WGBH/TV and shown on PBS throughout the country.

In This cycle of funding, Fund For

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7



Liam Maher and "Untitled", one of the works in his exhibit called SPACEKEEP, currently at J.P. Licks through February 28.

WINTER PERFORMANCE SERIES

FEBRUARY 21 8:00

The 300th birthday of composers Bach. Handel and Scarlatti is celebrated this year. The WINTER PERFORMANCE on Thursday, February 21 will highlight the works of these great musicians, other noted composers, and the poems of e.e. cummings.

Pianist DONNA WOONTEILER will play a program of Charles Ives, Debussy and Chopin.

Performer ROBERT C. AMELIO will delight the audience with his interpretations of e.e. cummings's poetry.

Classical guitar duo JEU-PARTI, EMILY LEIVAN and RICHARD LAYMAN will play a program of Bach, Handel and Scarlatti as well as others. See the last issue of the JAMAICA PLAIN ARTS NEWS (February 6) for more details.

JOHANN SEBASTIAN BACH

By Thomas J. Hummel

There was great music before Johann Sebastian Bach composed his incomparable works. By the time of Palestrina (1525-1594), music was already exceedingly complicated. the efforts of Palestrina and his contemporaries brought unaccompanied vocal harmonic composition to the peak of its development. There followed a hundred years during which little further advancement was made.

J.S. Bach was born almost three centuries ago, on March 21, 1685. Seven generations of musical Bachs had preceded him; Johann Sebastian quite naturally carried on the family trade of the most renowned musical family in Germany, and dedicated himself to do his job as well as he knew how. His sweet treble voice led to his first professional position, as choirboy, before he was 15. He took clavier lessons from an older brother, and then began to play the organ. by the time he was 18 his fame as an organist had spread, and he was hired as a church organist. His position also included a duty he resented: training the choristers. His exasperation toward his charges led to hard feelings and an altercation with the choristers and the town authorities which, fortunately, was amicably resolved.

Bach's renown as an organist and musician grew. To provide for himself and his family--he had twenty children by two wives--he had available to him positions as a church organist, or he

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

WINTER PERFORMANCE

Zenger Collection, Municipal Archive, Augsburg

St. Thomas Church in Leipzig, where Bach worked from 1723 to the end of his life.

BACH from page 1

could seek the patronage of a nobleman. Either choice had its drawbacks: the town fathers were wont to restrict his practical and musical inclinations; the noblemen, usually self-centered and imperious, would likely dictate their often supercilious notions. Bach, hardly reserved or withdrawing, dealt forthrightly with the day-to-day annoyances. Take heart, artists of today! The course of true art never runs smoothly.

Meanwhile, he was absorbing the music of the past and the music of his contemporaries--German, Italian and French--and transmuting it into stupendous and elegant compositions. To further his children's musical education he wrote a little exercise book which later became The Well- Tempered Clavichord ("tempered"-- read: "tuned"), a favorite with virtuosos and their audiences. There followed many compositions--secular and sacred. The six Brandenburg concerti are small pieces that Albert Schweitzer called "the purest product of Bach's polyphonic style". And it is not unlikely that if a vote were taken for the greatest musical composition ever written, the B Minor Mass would carry the day.

But during his life, Bach's fame rested on his accomplishments as one of the greatest organists and clavier players of his time; his compositions were little-known outside the circle of his family and pupils. His talented son, Carl Philipp Emanuel, referred to his father merely as "musical director of several courts and in the end, cantor at Leipzig". And Bach himself said of the new styles of music which in the hands of his sons, Carl Philipp Emanuel and Johann Christoph Friedrich, were soon to eclipse his own art for the next century, "The art has advanced to great heights: the old style of music no longer plases our modern ears"! While Mozart and Beethoven had both drunk deep at the inexhaustible well of Bach's remarkable techniques, it remained for Mendelssohn and others, a century after Bach's death, to establish Bach as the creator of incomparably beautiful compositions.

Enjoyment of the works of Bach does not, fortunately, depend on knowing when they were written, or whether it's a French Suite or a partita, or on a knowledge of the many technicalities of musical compositions. Just as the proof of the pudding is in the tasting, so the proof of the music is in the hearing. But, what cannot be said of the pudding, the music improves with age; that is, the more you listen to it, the more you are delighted with the new wonders you discover.

A condescending assessment of Bach's music is that it is "golden mathematics"--i.e., flawless formality. But it is more than that; well and ingeniously structured, yes, but along with superb composition is ineffable beauty and that marvelous characteristic of all great art, the ineluctable right choice at every turn of the composition. It is as if the composition existed in ourselves all along, waiting to be called forth by the genius who has found the means to express it. We wonder at it, and are filled with joy.

Acquaintance with the music of Bach is well worth cultivating. Attend to it and you will be rewarded. Listen, enjoy. ●

JAMAICA PLAIN ARTS NEWS

The JAMAICA PLAIN ARTS NEWS is a bi-weekly publication. Subscriptions are $15.00 for 24 issues.

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Leave messages, copy, etc., in the blue newsbox in Food For Thought, on Centre Street.

ADVERTISERS

OUR PAPER reaches over 5000 people, more than the Jamaica Plain Citizen. And it is picked up be people so they are likely to read it. This is a market tool that shouldn't be ignored. If you are interested in advertising, call 522-9703.

NEXT ISSUE: March 6
DEADLINE: February 28

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MEET THE ARTISTS

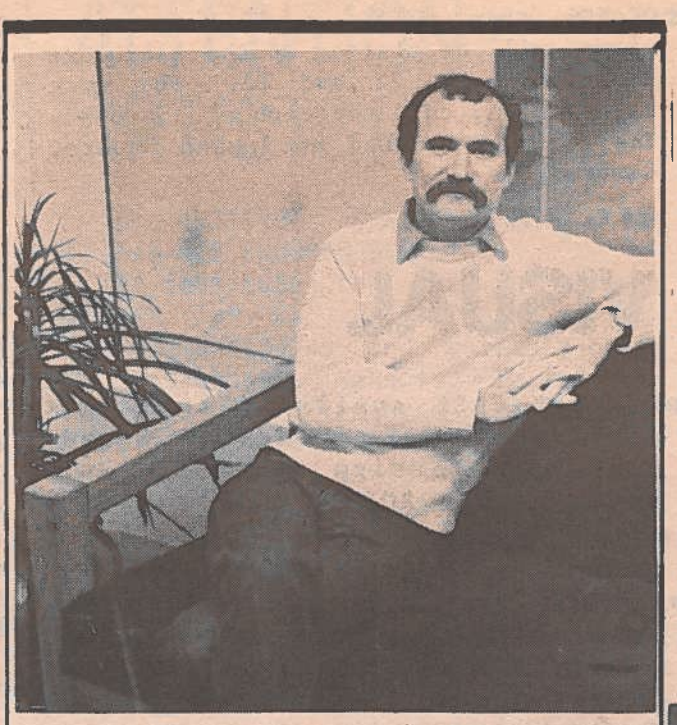
WINTER PERFORMANCE

TRIO TRIUMPHS

On February 28th, the **WINTER PERFORMANCE SERIES** presents the exciting sounds of THE DAVE TIDBALL TRIO. Dave Tidball on sax, Grover Mooney on drums, and Joe Fitzgerald on acoustic bass create experimental sounds and textures sure to delight. Together for nearly two years, the group has played around Boston, at the 1369 Club in Cambridge and at the Cage Gallery in the South End where they first played with poet P.C. Reid. Dave himself is no stranger to Eliot Hall, as his previous band, Minotaur, played a concert there several years ago. On the 28th they will debut several new pieces, as well as playing one selection in counterpoint with poetry. Their program will consist primarily of original compositions with a sprinkling from the standard jazz repertoire, such as Monk and Coltrane.

Because there is no chord-playing instrument among them, their music departs from the standard fare where a piano or guitar provides the link between the harmony and the rhythm. Dave points out that while this style of music is not new, having been created in the 50's, it is not the most common fare. It provides the opportunity for freedom, both to go outside the structure of any chord, to imply the chord, as well as freedom rhythmically. Because they are not playing the chords, there is more of a tendency to have spaces in and around the music which they can then use, creatively, texturally. But their music is meant to be heard, not analyzed, and the opportunity is yours, Thursday, February 28th.

DAVE TIDBALL TRIO (top to bottom) Grover Mooney, Dave Tidball and Joe Fitzgerald.



Poet P.C. Reid will read his works at the WINTER PERFORMANCE SERIES on Thursday, February 28. See page 6 of this issue for some words from Mr. Reid.

ANDY'S BAND

The second half of the evening on February 28 will be filled with the dynamic sounds of ANDY HOLINER AND THE FIREHOUSE BAND. Andy's group cooks up an original blend of rock, baked with jazz and soul. Led by Andy Holiner, who was featured in the very first issue of the JAMAICA PLAIN ARTS NEWS, the group includes an incredibly talented collection of people. ANDY HOLINER, on piano, synthesizer, and vocals, is also the composer of all the songs. His songs have earned him publishing contracts with Regent Music (N.Y.C.) and Beechwood Publ. (L.A.) as well as First Prize in the Gospel Category of the 1982 Nashville Music City Song Festival. His concert dates have taken him around the country and on radio in Spain and Bermuda. In 1972 he recorded a children's folk album for Harcourt, Brace and Jovanovich in New York City called "Circles of Sounds". A Jamaica Plain resident for eight years, Andy has been performing all around Boston and freelancing his music and movement programs with young children in the area.

RAY FRISBEE, on drums and percussion, earned his performance degree from Berklee College of Music in 1979. He toured the eastern United States with his own jazz fusion group "Ictus" and appears on both the group's albums on the Airborne record label. He is very active in the local music scene.

ED FRIEDLAND, bass, is currently teaching at Berklee and doing freelance performing and studio work in the area. Ed has played bass for Larry Coryell, Illinois Jacquet, Michael Urbanick, The Drifters and Marvellets.

DAVE SHOLL, sax, recently toured with blues legend Big Mama Thorton. He is currently playing with Little Frankie and the Premiers. Dave has done experimental free-form jazz at the Ulta Sound Lab and has recorded with "Men & Volts".

BRUCE BARTLETT, guitar, has been doing studio work around Boston. He is currently playing with "Dish". Bruce has recently been a member of "Double Rig", playing with members of "Tiger's Baku".

TERRY TAYLOR, vocals, is presently attending Berklee. A vocalist around the Boston area, she has performed with John Ross, Orville Wright and Jackie Bayard. Terry has appeared on local television shows, "Lift Every Voice", "Evening Magazine" and "Good Day".

ANN FARNSWORTHY, vocals, has recently been playing piano and singing solo around the Boston area. Ann sang with Andy at the Wake Up The Earth Festival last spring.

ANDY HOLINER AND THE FIREHOUSE BAND (Left to right) Ed Friedland, Andy Holiner (standing) Ray Frisbee and Dave Sholl. Not pictured: Bruce Bartlett, Terry Taylor and Ann Farnsworthy.

WINTER PERFORMANCE

MARCH 7

J.P HOMEGROWN

On March 7, starting at 9 PM, the WINTER PERFORMANCE SERIES comes to a close with a grand finale. The incomparable ALIDA ROHR brings together a fine group of groovin' musicians: Butch Waner on bass, Michael Nowak on congas, percussion and trumpet, Phil Kaplan on guitar, and Orrin J.--all the way from New York to play guitar. Alida herself will provide the piano and vocal leadership through her all-original material. She describes the style of her music as "Boston eclectic refugee." And she is described, by Steve Elman of WBUR radio, as being "gifted with one of the most remarkable instruments that

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

ART EVENTS

MUSIC

● THE FOLK ODYSSEY a continuing journey in search of folk culture. Saturday 2-6:00 PM, WUMB 91.9 FM, Host Michael Kane. Ethnic, traditional and folk music from around the world.

February 23 - 3:30 PM, a special presentation of Martin Duberman's powerful play In White America with Gloria Foster, Moses Gunn, Billy Faier etc.

● The Metropolitan Wind Symphony, a semiprofessional wind ensemble, makes its second concert appearance in its new Fenway home when it presents a varied program of wind works on Saturday, March 2, at 8:00 p.m., in the Boston Latin School Auditorium, 78 Avenue Louis Pasteur (between The Fenway and Longwood Avenue). Under the direction of Music Director Peter Loel Boonshaft, the 45-member adult ensemble will perform works by Berlioz, Gliere, Persichetti, and Holst. Tickets are bargain priced at $4.50 for adults, $3.00 for students and seniors, and free parking is available. For more information call 522-2849.

● The J.P. Junction Coffeehouse brings some of the finest folk entertainment in the area to Jamaica Plain. The Coffeehouse is located at 85 Seaverns Ave. (turn off Centre St. at Hailer's Drug Store). Food/refreshments are available. For more information, call 524-3343 or 524-4311.

● ORANGE then BLUE, a 12-piece jazz group, will be playing at the 1369 Jazz Club, February 22 and 23. For more information, call the club at 354-8030. The 1369 is located at Inmann Square, Cambridge.

VISUAL

● DISPLAY CASE available for craft displays at the Sedgwick Street Library. To sign up, call Laura Reyes at 524-2053.

● EXHIBIT: The work of painter Susan Schapiro is currently on exhibit through February 28 at the Babson College Library. The gallery hours are Monday through Friday, noon to 2pm, Sunday, 2-4pm.

● EXHIBIT: The work of R. Smith will be on exhibit at Frameworthy Gallery, 761 Centre Street, 522-3451, February 19th through March 15th, 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM except Sunday and Monday. Reception Sunday, February 24th, 2-6:00 PM.

● EXHIBIT: The artwork of children at the Hollow Reed School in Jamaica Plain will be on exhibit at the office of Physicians for Social Responsibility, 639 Mass Ave., Cambridge, MA through March. The subject of the works are peace and the threat of nuclear war. (See article this issue).

● EXHIBIT: The paintings of Liam Maher, collectively titled Spacekeep, will be on exhibit at J.P. Licks, Centre Street, Jamaica Plain, February 1-28.

● EXHIBIT; The work of French painter Christion Gautier, Christjoe, on exhibit at the French Library, Marlboro Street, Boston, through February 23.

THEATER

● AUDITIONS for the Footlight Club Community Theatre production of "Oliver" will be held at the club, 7 Eliot Street, Jamaica Plain, on March 10, 2-4 PM and March 12, 7-9 PM. The director is looking for men, women and children of all types. Adults should come with a prepared song, either from the show or from outside the show. Production scheduled for May.

● TECHNICAL CREW NEEDED: All people interested in working on the Footlight Club production of "Oliver" should call 524-7466. Crew is needed in set, light, costume, etc.

MISC.

● POETRY READING at the Sedgwick Street Branch of the Boston Public Library. Poet Sandee Storey will discuss her craft and read from her work. February 26, 10:15 AM. For more information call 524-2053.

● WOMEN's CONTRA DANCE TO BENEFIT LIBANA Libana, A Women's Chorus, will sponsor a benefit Contra Dance for women on Saturday, March 2, from 8-11 PM at the First Church Congregational, 11 Garden St., Cambridge. Cindy Green will be the caller and live music will be provided by Libana and friends. No partner is necessary and beginners are encouraged to come! For more information, call 864-6912.

CALENDAR

S	m	t	W	t	f	S
			20 Mass. College of Art Film Series 7:30 pm Boston	21 Young People's Lecture & Demonstration 4 pm. Northeastern Winter Performance Series 8 pm. J.P.	22 Orange then Blue at 1369 Jazz Club Kenji Ogata at J.P. Coffeehouse 8 pm.	23 Orange then Blue at 1369 Jazz Club Folk Odyssey 3:30 pm.
24 Reception for R. Smith 2-6 pm. J.P.	25 Kids Corner 3:30-5:30 pm Agassiz School every Monday	ARTS COUNCIL MEETING 26 Young People's Lecture & Demonstration 10 am. Poetry Reading 10:15 am. Sedgwick Lib.	27 Black History Film Program 10:30 am. Roxbury Mass. College of Art Film Series 7:30 pm. Boston	28 Storytelling 3:30 pm. Roxbury DEADLINE: J.P. ARTS NEWS Winter Performance Series 8 pm. J.P.	1	2 Children's Creative Workshop 1:30-4 pm. J.P. every Sat. Wind symphony 8 pm. Boston Contradance 8 pm.
3 Wake Up the Earth Festival planning meeting 4 pm. J.P.	4	5 Children's Art Show & Bookfair Agassiz School J.P.	6 Kids Corner every Wed. 3:30-5:30 pm Agassiz School NEXT ISSUE: ARTS NEWS	7 Winter Performance Series 9 pm. J.P.	8	9 Folk Odyssey 2-6 pm Sat's. WUMB 91.9 FM
10 Auditions for "Oliver" Footlight Club 2-4 pm. J.P.	11	12 Auditions for "Oliver" Footlight Club 2-4 pm. J.P.	Send Your Listings to: PO Box 3 Jamaica Plain, MA 02130 LISTINGS MUST INVOLVE JAMAICA PLAIN ARTISTS OR EVENTS			

FILM

● MASS. COLLEGE OF ART--Film Society

February 20:
"Enthusiasm" by Vertov
"Chinese Typewriter" by Dan Barnett
"The Ogre" by Dan Barnett
"Man with a Movie Camera" by Vertov
February 27:
Abigail Child Film Show (artist will be present)

ALL SHOWS at 7:30 PM, Room C-9, 364 Brookline Avenue, Boston. $2.00 donation, free with Mass. Art ID. Call 232-1555 for information.

FOR KIDS

● Agassiz Community School After School Reading Program is sponsoring a R.I.F. BOOKFAIR. The theme is ' Kites and Things Tnat Fly'. Fun games and refreshments will be served and children pick a free book! March 5th, 4:00-5:30. For information: Agassiz Community School, 20 Child Street, Jamaica Plain. 524-0841 Ramona Brand.

ALSO ON THAT DAY...

● Agassiz Community School ART SHOW: The exhibition will include drawings, paintings and collages created by children and youth in the Jamaica Plain community. March 5th 3:30-5:30. For information: 524-0841 Dorothy Martin.

● KIDS KORNER
An after school program for children ages 6-12, Monday and Wednesday 3:30-5:30 pm. featuring activities in art, theater, and gym. Contact Dorothy Martin 524-0841, Agassiz. Cost: $2.00/day.

● CHILDREN'S CREATIVE WORKSHOPS sponsored by the Jamaica Plain Arts Council. 8 Saturdays starting March 2. See article this issue for more details. Call Femke 522-2809 or Thomas 524-2069 for more information.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

BLACK HISTORY MONTH PROGRAMS at Parker Hill Branch, 1497 Tremont Street, Roxbury

● February 27, 10:30 AM. Film program: Frederick Douglass: The House on Cedar Hill; and Harriet Tubman and the Underground Railroad. For children in Grades 4-6.
February 28, 3:30 PM. "When the Drums Sang". A special storyhour with Janice Bunch. For children in Grades 2-4.

● TRIBUTE TO BLACK WOMEN, An exhibit of paintings by James R. Reed, Artist and Member, the African Master Artists-In-Residence Program, Northeastern University.

February 21 at 4:00 PM
Lecture and Demonstration for Young People in grades 7-12.

February 26 at 10:00 AM
Lecture and Demonstration for Children in grades 3-5.

ATTENTION ARTISTS!

THE INSTITUTE FOR THE ARTS SEEKS ARTISTS FOR PROGRAM DIRECTORY

The Institute for the Arts brings artists of all disciplines to the classrooms studios and assembly halls of Massachusetts schools. In this way students see firsthand the dynamic energies and discipline of artists at work. To achieve this interaction, the institute publishes a directory of all the artists who have been deemed eligible. Schools may then seek to work with these artists and funding will be sought. The deadline is March 15 for new artists to be listed in the upcoming Directory. For and applicatiion or for more information about how this works, please call The Institute at 338-3073. ●

J.P. ORCHESTRA SEEKS STRING PLAYERS

The lilting and colorful sounds of a thirty-five piece orchestra will soon be as common in Jamaica Plain as the rattle of the Arborway train. Led by Frenchman Patrick Botti, the orchestra will be rehearsing in the Jamaica Plain High School with a goal of April 14 for their first concert.

Botti, originally from Marseilles, spent many years in Paris as a conductor and teacher. He came to the United States on a double Fulbright Scholarship to the New England Conservatory, where he studied for two years. He has chosen a French repertoire for the first concert.

Although he has had no trouble finding most of the musicians for this effort, a shortage of string players is occurring. Interested musicians should contact manager Katherine McKee at 244-2980 for more information. ●

HELP PLAN SPRING FESTIVAL

WAKE UP THE EARTH FESTIVAL
The first planning meeting for the 1985 Wake Up the Earth Festival will be held on Sunday, March 3, at 4p.m. at the office of the Southwest Corridor Community Farm, 46 Chestnut Ave., J.P. The Festival is a showcase for local talent and celebrates the beauty and unity of diverse cultures. Please join us! Call 522-1259 for more information. ●

J.P. JUNCTION COFFEE HOUSE

FEATURES TWO BRILLIANT PERFORMERS

85 SEAVERNS AVE
J.P. MA.
524-3343 or 524-4311

KENJE OGATA (ken-jee oh-gah-tah), folksinger and guitarist, to perform at J.P. JUNCTION COFFEEHOUSE, on Friday, February 22nd, at 8 PM.

Ms. Ogata brings a clear voice and vibrant energy to the performance of traditional and contemporary folk tunes, with a few other things thrown in: the occasional 30's swing tune, gospel songs, a little blues. She says singing is about people. Last year she won a Massachusetts Arts Lottery grant to put on a mini-series of concerts. In addition, Kenje claims to be the only half-Japanese-American folksinger who writes one-line folksongs. (Composing one-line tunes demands a high degree of skill, she insists: anybody can write a whole song--just look at how many people are doing it!) She lives in Somerville, MA, drives a car named Doris, and performs throughout the northeast.

Kenje appears for this, her second performance at the J.P. Junction. Admission donation is $2.50. Performances go from 8 till at least 10:30 PM.

ALSO APPEARING: **BEN TOUSLEY**, singer/songwriter. He has delighted New England audiences with his warm, engaging style, combining original songs with the rich traditions of Irish, Afro-American and Jewish music.

Tousley has performed in clubs and coffeehouses along the East Coast and in England and Ireland, and brings his special music programs to hospitals, schools, churches and elderly homes. ●

CAST OF BOSTON 'CATS' by Jeffrey Mark Dunn

PHOTO EXHIBIT

FRESH HAIR, at 62 South Street, Jamaica Plain, presents an exhibit of the photographic work of Jeffrey Dunn, through March 30. Jeffrey Dunn is a freelance photographer and photojournalist who has his studios, Creative Media Services, near Central Square in Cambridge.

Mr. Dunn's work has appeared in many notable publications including Newsweek, The New York Times, Art In America and the Boston Globe. His regular clients include WGBH/ TV, Houghton Mifflin Company, Tufts New England Medical Center and others. The work that will appear at Fresh Hair are portraits, gleaned from his public relations work, of the famous and "some who may be famous". "As a general assignment freelance photographer, I strive to document the people, motion and light around us. My goal is to delight the eye of the present and leave a record for the future." His images are rich and alive, the textures and tones enhancing the meaning inherent in the strong images themselves. ●

WINTER PERFORMANCE - POETRY

COMING OUT OF IT

Even with the city locked in winter,
With every heel clacking like a stone,
Some molten source still manages to make
Its fissure in the city's hardened surface.
In this case, ruptures in a heating line
Send up great heaps of brilliant steam
To rumble noiselessly across the street.
The numbed, drudge morning corps
Slips quickly through it, most aware
Of little else than some brief difference
In the usually inobdurate texture
Of early hours: a moistness, drag
On the breath, sudden bleaching of the air.
Some come awake, look up, and make
The usual mistake--they have come out of it,
And out unchanged. But out and out
We come, for I have stopped to watch
That scattered battery, colloidal bits
That float in hush towards routine's ends--
There, then gone into the silent clouds,
Then rematerializing in mid-stride.
I notice that the unforeseen's quick touch
Will register in different ways. One man
Appears to have encountered borne disease,
As if experience's many distillates
Must always be the gas from standing drains.
Another comes out with her eyes fast shut,
A cold and rigid blade that swiftly cuts
The ductile substance of our common life.
But one young woman made my watching worth
The wait. She'd seen the billows down the block
And as she entered breathed, opened her hands,
And made of her whole being one broad touch.
Then, coming out of it, knew she was changed,
And quickly turned to see the change she'd made.

- P. C. Reid

SOME NOTES ON MY POETRY

- by P. C. Reid

There's a quick way to explain how I approach poetry and that's to label myself a formalist. But to post-60's mentalities (my favorite kind) the term might bring in some negative associations: formalism as something limiting and unspontaneous, and on the other hand, calculated and contrived. But by examining the formalist approach from a different perspective, we can render all those associations moot. Formalism in poetry pertains more to the 'process of writing' than to the actual thing produced. The eventual product, the poem, may or may not appear 'formal'--the best poets agonize over free verse poems as well as sonnets--but during the process of producing the poem, the poet, if she/he fits into my convenient formalist category, has paid heed to all the formal devices at her/his disposal. The point is that formalists don't want to miss any tricks, just as a painter wouldn't want to limit a pallette to three colors.

My poem, "Coming Out Of It," uses a number of formal devices. First of all, there is what's called a standard rhythm to the lines. The third line, for example, has exactly ten syllables and the rhythm, starting with the unstressed word 'Some,' rocks up and down with alternating stress. Because poetry uses foreshortened lines, unlike prose where sentences just run to the edge of the page, the lines can hold a rhythm much as a taut piece of string can 'hold' a vibration. The rhythm in a line of poetry can stimulate emotions in a reader or listener (though no one knows exactly how). This emotion, joined with the meaning in the line, accounts for much of the power of poetry. The third line of my poem also demonstrates one of the sonic devices that poets can use: three words start with 'm', and that sound repetition can draw a response from the reader. The 14th line contains two words which rhyme with each other (awake/make), and that rhyme is echoed again in the next line. These represent just a few of the considerations of a formalist poet.

The subject matter, or content, of my poems is very mixed, and I plan to cover a number of content areas in the February 28th reading. Luckily, we live in an age when nearly any subject can be used for a poem and that was not always the case. In our time, poets are differentiated more by the degree to which they use formal elements than by the subjects they choose to write about.

WINTER PERFORMANCE

ALIDA ROHR's BAND: Phil Kaplan, Alida, Butch Waner, Orrin J. and Michael Nowak.

WINTER PERFORMANCE from page 3

I've ever heard", and by Jeff McLaughlin of the Boston Globe as an "extraordinarily gifted vocalist who can range from torchy jazz ballads to scorching rock to ethereal art songs. Her bands are always hot." And March 7 will be no exception.

On board with Alida Rohr's Band is MEN & VOLTS. Men & Volts have been based in and around J.P. since 1979. Their music has been variously described as "Yankee transcendentalism" and "having one foot on Pluto and one leg knee-deep in the Mississippi mud". Songwriter Phil Kaplan cites as influences: Kurt Weill, Howlin' Wolf, Richard Thompson and the great KEEF himself. Individually, these are the MEN: David Greenberger, bass guitar, well-known both locally and across the nation for his highly regarded monthly, "The Duplex Planet", a unique compilation of the wit and wisdom of the men who reside among us at the Duplex Nursing home right here in Jamaica Plain; Jeff Cronenberg, on guitar, slide guitar and vocals; Roger V. Stevenson, on bass guitar and vocals; the redoubtable Jon "The Time, Please" Proudman, drums, who the west coast tenor player, Dan Bittner, once called the "greatest tabla-drum player of the east coast..."; and Phil Kaplan, guitar, vocals, and musical director efface... Not a night to miss!

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

WINTER PERFORMANCE

ZUCKER from page 1

The Arts awarded 15 grants totaling $65,000 to catagories of visual arts, dance, theatre, music, multi-disciplinary and film/video/computer-generated art. Grants range from $500-$5000. Established in 1981, in part as a response to the decrease in Federal arts funding, it is one of the few programs in the Commonwealth funding individual artists, working in collaboration with non-profit organizations.

For more information for the next cycle of funding, write:

WBZ "FUND FOR THE ARTS"
1170 Soldiers Field Road
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.your name, address and phone number(s)
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Quote of the Week

SPEAKING about the effect that cutting the arts out of the national budget would have...

"The total amount saved would run the Defense Department for about 27 minutes. Furthermore, the arts are not "secondary activities." They are a collective social need. In the long run, civilizations are distinguished mostly by their cultural achievements. AT A COST OF 71 CENTS A YEAR PER AMERICAN (COMPARED WITH MORE THAN $1,300 PER PERSON FOR DEFENSE) (my caps-ed.) the arts are a great investment."

Peter Zeisler, Director
Theatre Communications Group, Inc.
New York, N. Y.

From NEWSWEEK February 18, 1985

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In an effort to open a healthy debate/discussion on these pages, the JAMAICA PLAIN ARTS NEWS invites its readers to become writers. The topic: What Is Art? This question may or may not infer other questions such as What Is Not Art?, Why Is Art? and Why should we even care?

Send commentary to JAMAICA PLAIN ARTS NEWS, P.O. BOX 3 , J.P.,MA. 02130. Please include your name, address and phone number. Your name will be used unless otherwise indicated. The ARTS NEWS reserves the right to print excerpts from letters.

WINTER PERFORMANCE

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 21, 8:00
Classical Birthday with pianist Donna Woonteiler, performer Robert C. Amelio bringing the work of poet e.e. cummings, and classical guitar duo Jeu-Parti.

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 28, 8:00
Dave Tidball Trio, poet P.C. Reid, and Andy Holiner and the Firehouse Band in an evening of jazz, poetry and rock.

THURSDAY MARCH 7, 9:00
Alida Rohr's Band and Men & Volts in a rockin' evening.
All performances at the Footlight Club, 7 Eliot Street, J.P. (Near the monument)
Tickets $3.00, Discounts for Arts Council members.
Sponsored by the JAMAICA PLAIN ARTS NEWS, the Footlignt Club and the Jamaica Plain Arts Council.

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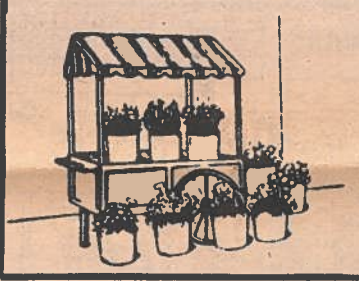
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The JAMAICA PLAIN ARTS NEWS reserves the right to refuse ads of questionable taste or validity.

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